This document is currently a draft. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and encouraged.

SHAPING FOR MISSION

A vision document and strategy for the Gold Coast Central Seventh-day Adventist Church

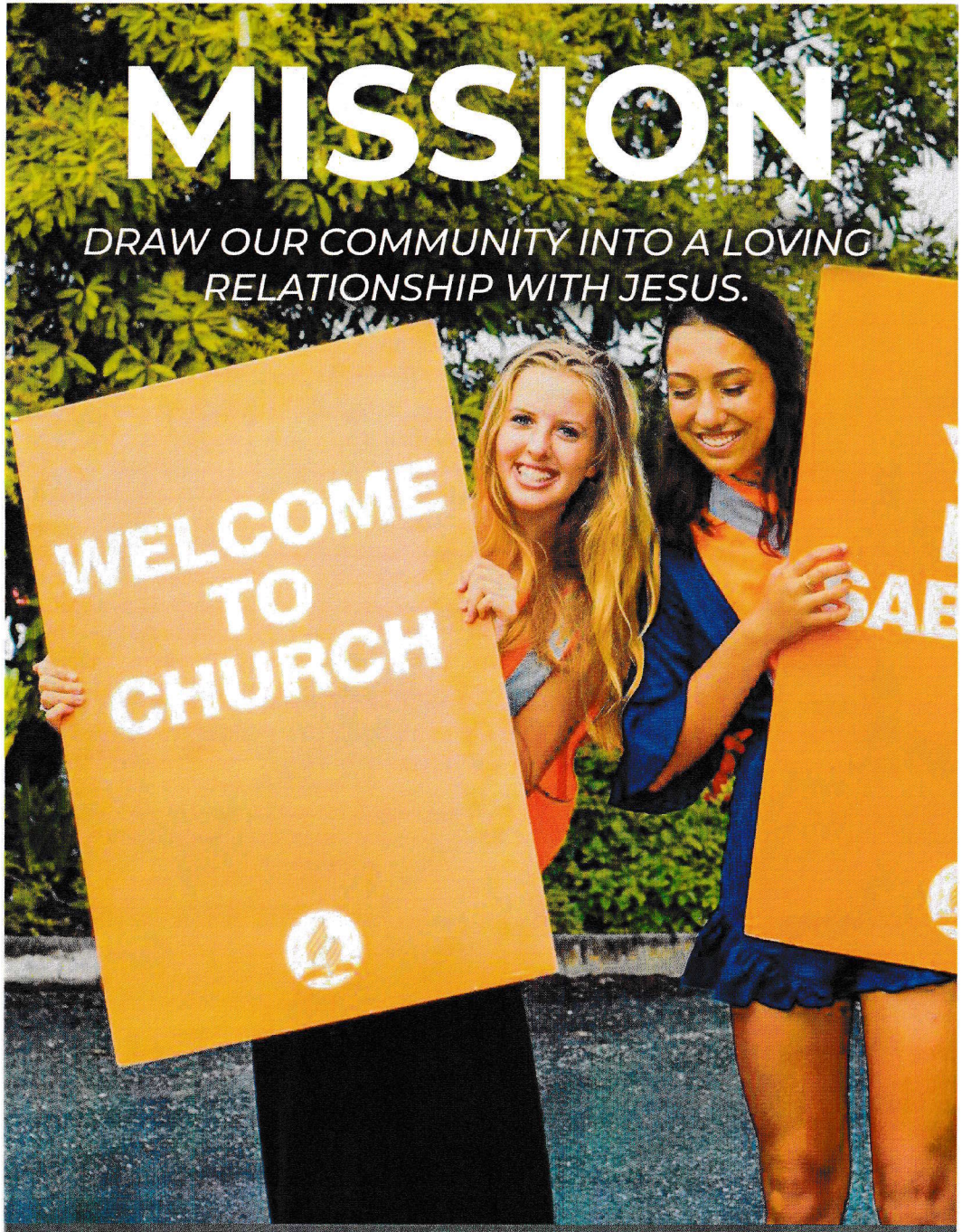
VISION

REACH 1 PERCENT OF THE GOLD COAST WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS BY 2030

A vision document and strategy for the
Gold Coast Central Seventh-day Adventist Church

MISSION

DRAW OUR COMMUNITY INTO A LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.



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Gold Coast Central Seventh-day Adventist Church

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JOURNEY | GCCC

From Southport to Gold Coast Central

Over 10 years ago, the Southport Adventist Church outgrew both their vision and their facility. They sold the old site and in 2009, relocated to a new facility that they built (Life Development Centre) and rebranded themselves to what is now known as Gold Coast Central Church. The people of Gold Coast Central had a vision for a church that was truly intergenerational, impacting and transforming people through all stages of life. As a result of constant prayer, and Spirit led initiatives, they now have over 370 official members, almost 500 people that consider the church 'home,' a weekly attendance of anywhere from 250-350 people, and over 160 children (0-17 year olds) registered in their various ministry areas.

Current Journey

In the 2017/2018 period, the church saw a new focus. They experienced considerable growth, particularly in the area of young families, and realised that the time had come to capitalise on this momentum with a vision for the future. During the second half of 2017 the church adopted a new mission to "Draw our community into a loving relationship with Jesus." This was officially launched along with three key focus areas for the church (*Spiritually Grounded, Socially Inclusive, Mission Focused*) in February of 2018. The church had David Jamieson come and spend a few days with the leaders and staff as a consultant who functioned as a catalyst for this new direction.

Looking Forward

Gold Coast Central Church will celebrate 10 years in the current facility in March of 2019 and in light of everything above, are now setting their sights forward on what God has planned for their next decade on the Gold Coast. They have a clear focus on shaping for mission by ministering to the unchurched and those far from God in the city of the Gold Coast.

Their vision is to 'Reach 1 percent of the Gold Coast with the gospel of Jesus by 2030.'

BIBLICAL RATIONALE

Need for a Clear, Focused, Community Centred Vision

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)

God has given the church a clear mission to be a sent people. It is our understanding that we are not merely a people called to minister to each other or to sit and hope that people stumble through our door. It is our understanding that we are called to 'draw our community into a loving relationship with Jesus.' This means being sent to our city in a way that serves and expands the kingdom of God.

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19)

In addition to understanding that we are a people sent to the city of the Gold Coast with this mission, we believe that we are on the cusp of seeing God do something great and something new in our city. We are challenged and inspired by the movement that was the early church, and some of the movements we see today in the modern Christian church. Sometimes as Christians, it can be easy to look back in scripture or to look around at what is happening elsewhere in the world today and say, "that could never work in our context." We are choosing instead to believe that God is going to do a great and new thing for his glory's sake in our city. And we believe that we will see it with our own eyes.

Where there is no vision, the people perish. (Proverbs 29:18)

It is all well and good to say that God is going to do something new, but in order for us to step into the new thing that God has in store for the city of the Gold Coast through this church we need vision. We need to understand where we are headed, why we are headed there, and how we are going to get there. Without a clear vision, we will move nowhere as a church. Through prayer and consideration, we believe that God is calling us to 'Reach 1 percent of the Gold Coast with the gospel of Jesus by 2030.' Why? Because we believe that God wants to do a transforming work in thousands of lives through our church community.

LOGISTICS RATIONALE

Gold Coast City – Relevant Statistics

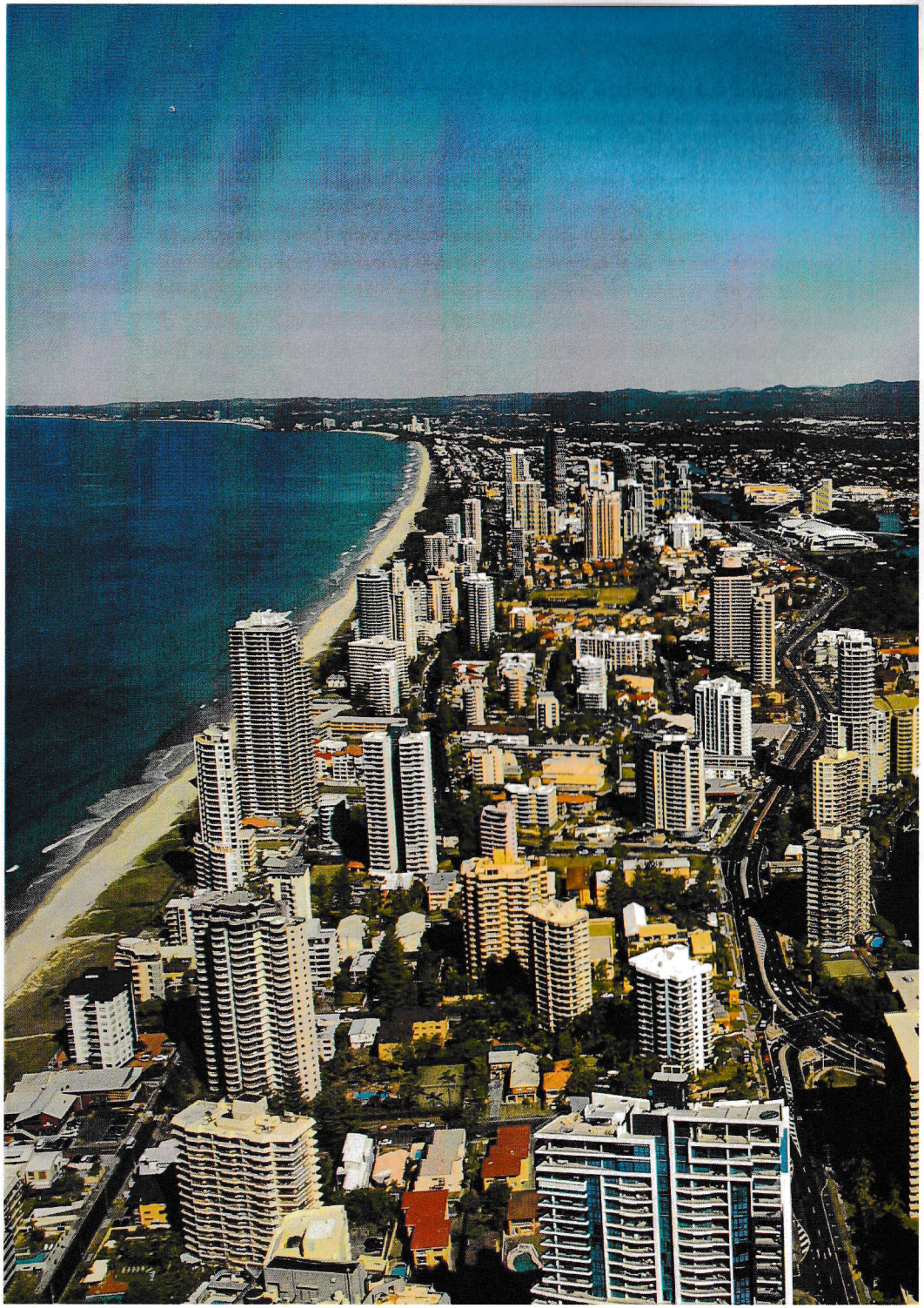
Gold Coast City now has close to 600,000 people in its population. The median age of the Gold Coast is 38 years old, and approximately 40% of its inhabitants are under the age of 30. Of these people, only 15% attend church once a month or more, and only 7% are actively engaged in a church. This means that every weekend somewhere between 510 and 560 thousand people have nothing to do with a church of any kind. The vast majority of these will never cross the threshold of a church on their own to hear the Gospel of Jesus. That means we have to take the Gospel to them.

Our Church – Relevant Statistics

Our church now has approximately 500 people who call it home, and 300 in attendance most weeks. Our median age, much like the wider city is approx. 38 or 39. Despite this similarity, there are two major discrepancies worth noting. Almost 35% of our regular attenders are aged from 0-18. In contrast with this, only 24% of the city fits this demographic. This is good news for the future of our church, however, the similarity between the median ages becomes evident because of the next age demographic. The Gold Coast has approx. 14% of its population aged 19-29, where our church only has 2-3% of attenders in that age spread. There are churches in Australia that seem to reach this demographic far better than our own. If we are to keep our current teenagers as they transition into adulthood and engage high capacity young adults with our church, we must find a way of communicating that connects a modern Australian worldview with the life-changing gospel of Christ.

Building Constraints

As can be seen in the snapshot of our church so far, we are a growing, dynamic, and increasingly young community of believers on the Gold Coast. This is due to how God has moved powerfully in our midst over the past and we look to the future believing he is going to do more and greater than he has ever done before. One major constraint we will have moving forwards with the vision of reaching 1% of the Gold Coast is physical building/meeting space. As such we propose a multi-campus model of expansion as we look to the future. This allows us to significantly impact our city with a united front in our structure/DNA, community outreach, worship, and combined ministry focuses.



VISION IN SUMMARY

Why 1 percent?

The vision to 'Reach 1 percent of the Gold Coast with the gospel of Jesus by 2030' is big and bold. We believe that that is exactly the kind of vision that God calls for us to have. It is not until we look beyond what we can imagine happening in our own strength that we actually take a step of faith, trusting God to do wonders in our midst. 1 percent is a big number, the Gold Coast is forecast to have a population of over 700, 000 people by 2030. That's 7000 decisions made, and lives transformed by the power of the gospel. It may be a big number, but a number is all this is. Also, it is conceptual in nature, we choose to remain flexible and open to the Spirit's leading through this vision. We may be called to slow down at times, or to reach further sooner, but what follows in the remainder of this document, is a brief strategic outline for Gold Coast Central Church.

PHASE 1: 2018-2019

The second half of 2018 and all of 2019 will be used as a time to formalise ministry structures, consolidate culture, expand/renovate current facilities, and lay the community groundwork for additional services.

PHASE 2: 2019-2021

As it grows, the 'Life Development Centre/Church' will launch additional services at the Central campus in Nerang. We will also lay the groundwork for our second campus in the Coomera/Ormeau area.

PHASE 3: 2022-2023

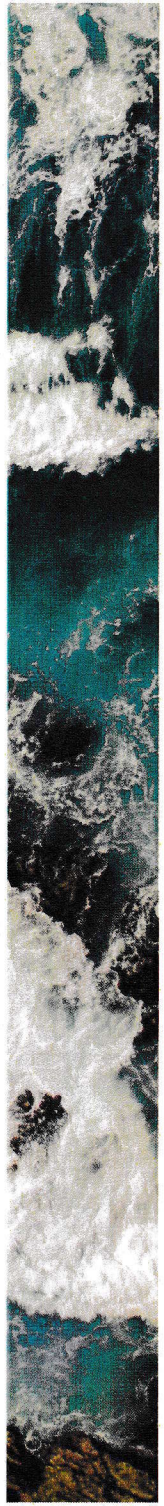
'Life Development Centre/Church' will launch a second campus. This will be in the Coomera /Ormeau area. Look towards the Southport COI.

PHASE 4: 2024-2026

The Southport campus will launch as a community 'Centre of Influence' that functions as a café/op-shop during the week, and a campus of our church on weekends. Groundwork will take place for the fourth campus in Palm Beach.

PHASE 5: 2027 and beyond

The Palm Beach campus of our church will launch, and further vision thoughts and plans will commence.



FINANCIAL PROVISION

In order for this vision to become a reality, it will need both the blessing and the assistance of the South Queensland Conference, as well as considerable financial commitment from our church.

Local Generosity

This vision will be funded from various different avenues. The key financial provision for all church growth comes from the spirit-filled generosity of our local members. As we look to the future we believe that God will lead us as a community to sacrificial generosity for the sake of his kingdom.

Conference Partnership

The way pastoral staffing works in the Adventist church in Australia is in a partnership with the local district conference who supply ministers to our churches. This will obviously continue, and we anticipate the already existing positive relations between our church and our conference to continue as we staff for growth into the future.

Additional Funding

There is additional funding available at conference, union, and division levels of our church specifically as we shape for mission and look to expand into areas of the Gold Coast not yet reached by our church. This is something we will work with the conference and various other levels of the church to obtain.

Local Church Additional Commitment

We are responsible for the operating budget of all ministries and facilities. With anticipation of launching several campuses in the coming years, we will put 10% of all local church offering, from our current and future campuses, and business income towards future campus funding. In addition to this our church will contribute to the funding for secretarial and managerial/ administrative staff to support this vision.

PHASE 1 – CONSOLIDATE CULTURE

ANTICIPATED TIME-FRAME: 2018-2019

KEY FOCUS: Implementing effective structures, consolidating culture, facility expansion, community ministry.

Effective Structures to Implement

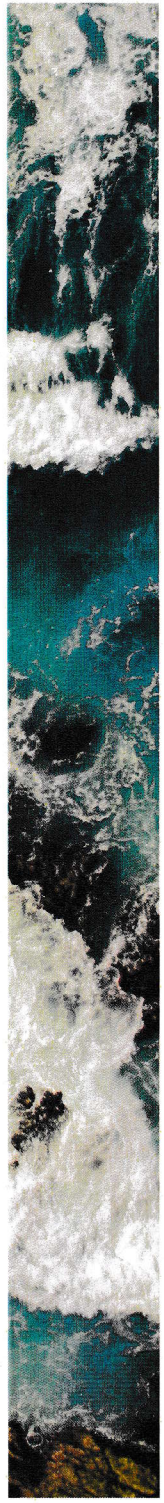
The culture of our church at the Life Development Centre is getting very close to being ready to reproduce, there are however, several areas that need effective structures placed around them that will make them scalable to a much larger church setting. These are: Focused and strategic community ministry; Leadership pathways that reproduce leaders who reproduce leaders; Intentional spiritual care of members and attenders through life groups and visitation; And formulating an online strategy that connects people to our church.

Facility Expansion

A key thing that needs to happen during PHASE 1 is our facility needs to be renovated and expanded in such a way as to accommodate for growth already experienced and anticipated future growth. This means developing our site to meet the following needs: larger kids, high school, and young adult meeting spaces; more adult Sabbath school rooms; a space for the Spanish service to meet; larger administration facilities for additional staff.

Laying the groundwork for PHASE 2

During PHASE 1 we are working towards reproducing ourselves by launching at least one additional English service at our Nerang campus and increasing our Spanish service to a weekly frequency. We will do this by forming a strategic partnership with Gold Coast Christian College to start a mid-week missional community for unchurched families in the school, and by creating a very intentional community service and outreach ministry to the Nerang area. Our existing community work through the op-shop in Southport will also be expanded.



PHASE 2 – SERVICES LAUNCH

ANTICIPATED TIME-FRAME: 2019-2021

KEY FOCUS: Launch of additional Nerang services and a time of preparation for our second campus in the Coomera/Ormeau area.

Launch of additional services

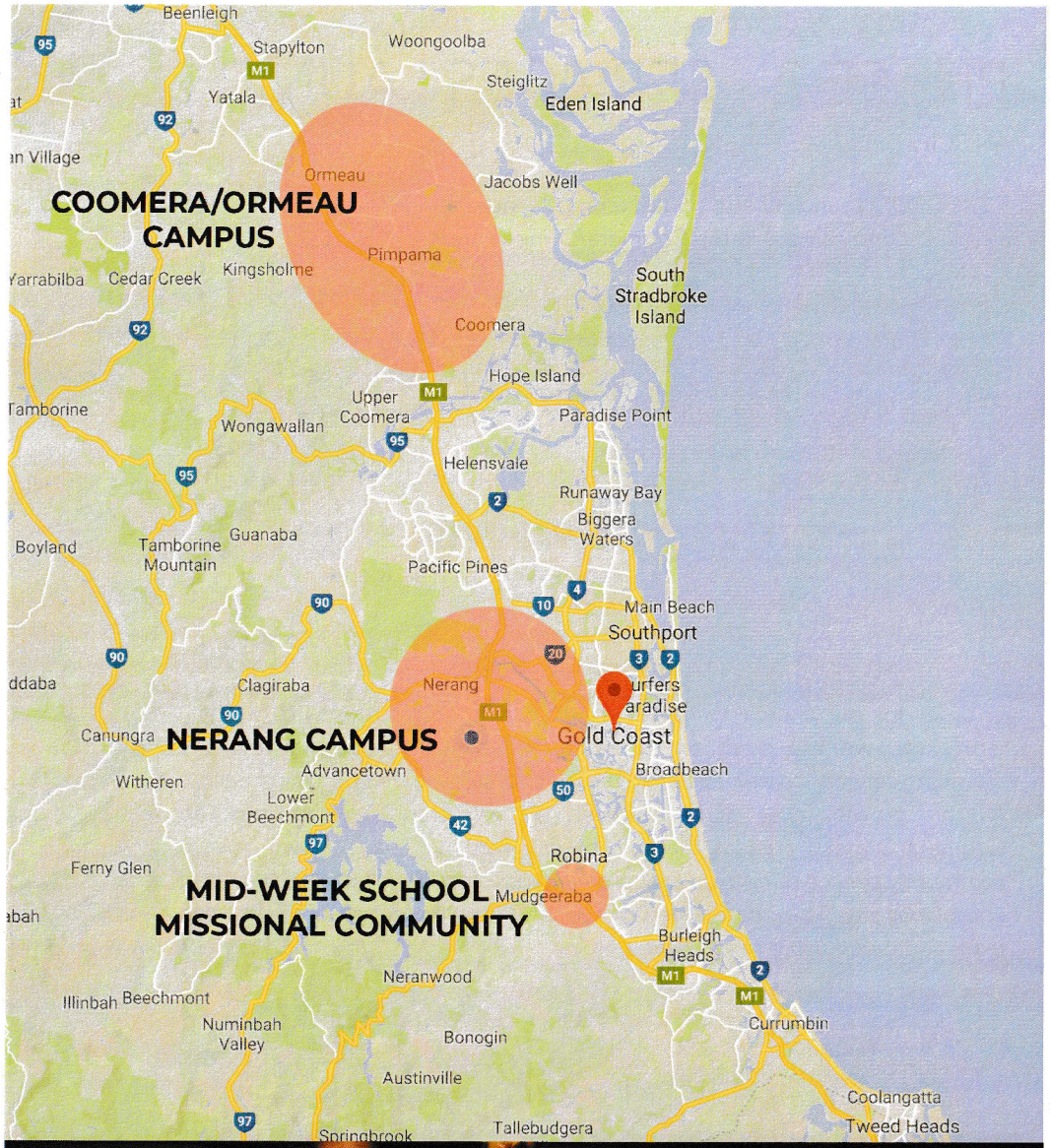
As our church grows, we anticipate the need to have additional services at our Nerang campus to accommodate current and future growth. This will include at least one more English service as well as a weekly Spanish service at this campus. Strategy will need to be put in place prior to this so that we are reproducing enough of the right leaders and can continue to maintain a family emphasis as we grow. Within the first few months of launching these services we will have a harvest campaign with Dr. Kayle De Waal so that all these new members and attenders can invite all of their friends to their new church.

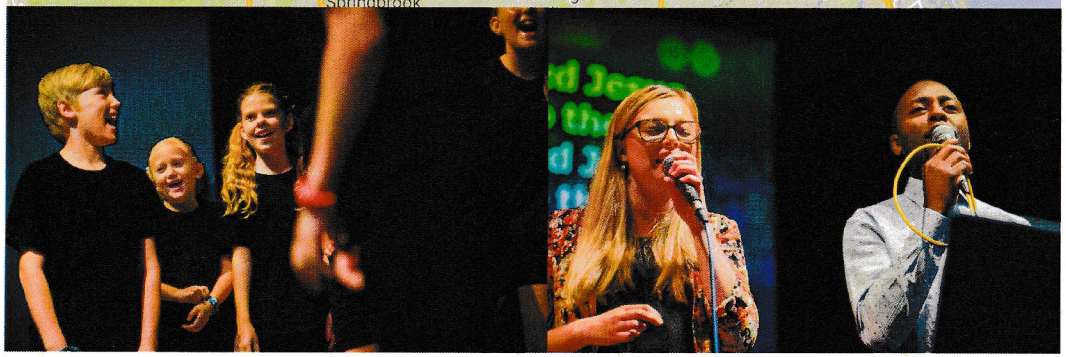
Laying the Groundwork for PHASE 3

In order for our church to have enough people and leaders to healthily reproduce, we will need to have approximately 600 people regularly attending services on a weekend so that our home base is strong and healthy. As this growth takes place however, we will start reaching into the Coomera/Ormeau area as that will be our next campus. We will start a community service ministry in that area and develop life groups on the north end of our city. Towards the end of Phase 2 we will elect an official launch team and date for our second campus.

School Partnership

There has been some talk about Gold Coast Christian College starting a north campus in the next few years. If this is a future that they decide to work towards we will partner with them in our work to the community and will launch our Coomera/Ormeau campus out of their facility. If not, we will focus on a key community facility that we can rent.





PHASE 3 – COOMERA/ORMEAU LAUNCH

ANTICIPATED TIME-FRAME: 2019-2023

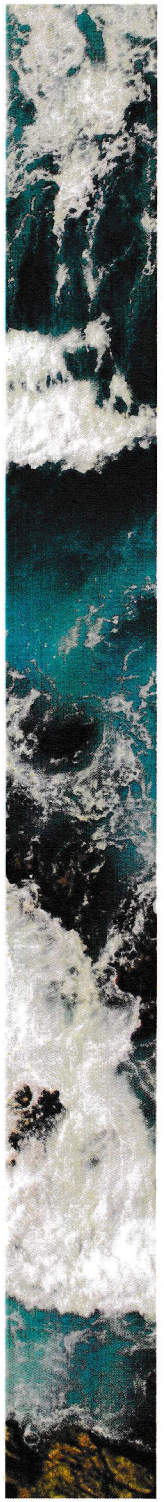
KEY FOCUS: Launch of Coomera/Ormeau campus and a time of preparation for our Southport campus and centre of influence.

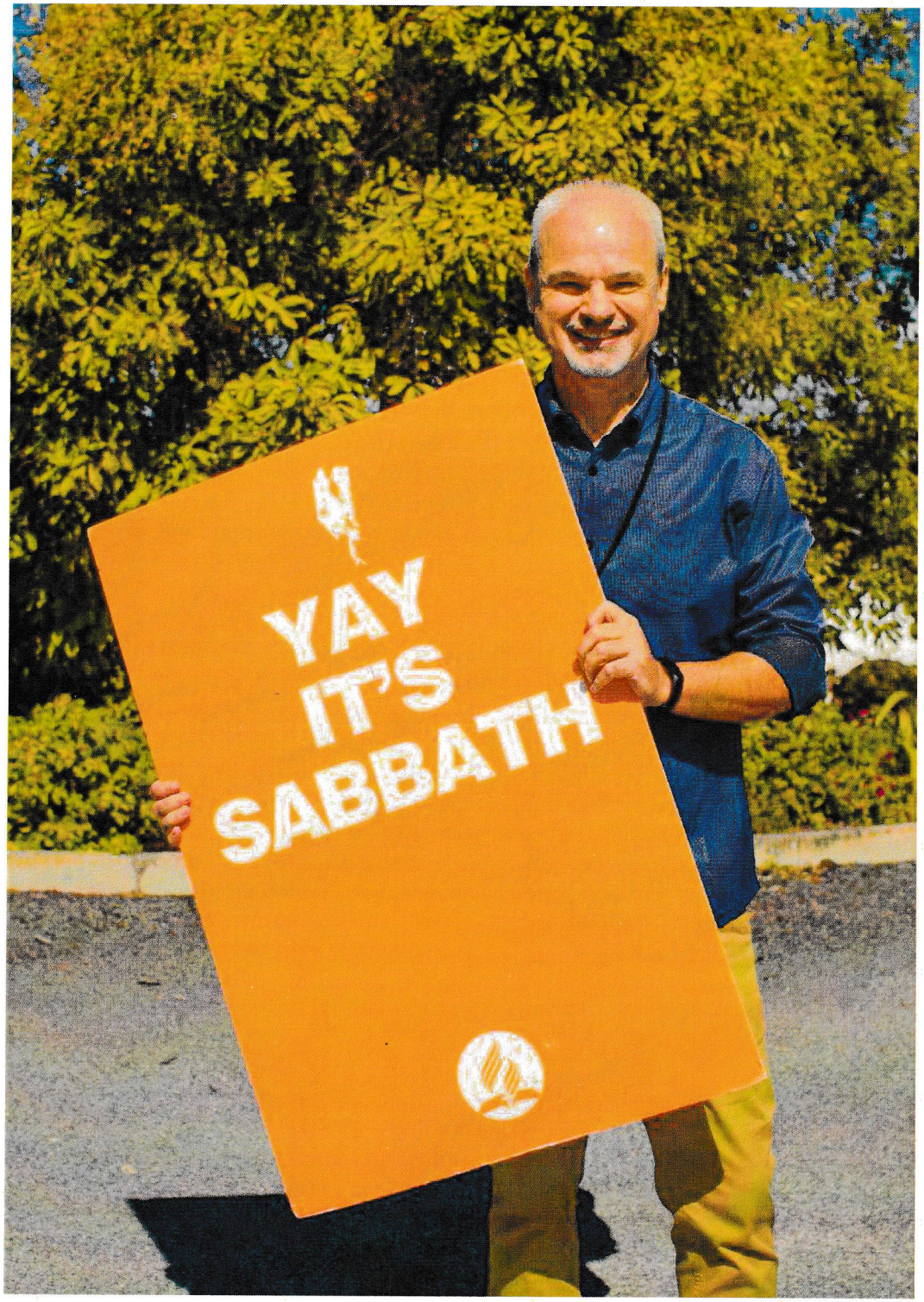
Launch of Coomera/Ormeau Campus

Early in this phase the Coomera/Ormeau campus launch will take place with the campus pastor, associated ministry leaders, and launch team for this campus. Within the first few months of launching these services we will have a harvest campaign with Dr. Kayle De Waal so that new members and attenders can invite all of their friends to their new church. This campus will not be an individual church plant, but rather, a part of our church organisation. This will mean that the kids/families pastor, and the high school/young adults pastor will begin to have a district ministry. Treasury and leadership etc. will still come from our main campus.

Laying the groundwork for PHASE 4

Within the first few months of the Coomera Campus lauch, a launch team will be elected for our Southport campus and centre of influence. A launch pastor with the families and youth pastor, alongside this team, will begin the process of reaching into that community with a community service ministry and the development of life groups. We anticipate that this would not only function as a weekend campus however but be a centre of influence during the week as a café and op-shop. Acquiring mission to the cities and centre of influence funding, buying a building, and getting the business plan for this centre will be vital prior to beginning PHASE 4.





PHASE 4 – SOUTHPORT COI (centre of influence)

ANTICIPATED TIME-FRAME: 2024-2026

KEY FOCUS: Launch of Southport campus as a community 'Centre of Influence,' that functions as a café/op-shop on weekdays, and a church campus on weekends, and lay the groundwork for our Palm Beach campus.

Launch of Southport campus and centre of influence

Early in this phase the Southport campus and centre of influence will officially open. We will host our café and op-shop at this campus that will function as a community connect point all week long. This will include community engagement programs and bible studies in evenings, as well as weekend church services as an official campus of our church. There will be a strong emphasis on physical and mental/emotional health out of this site in partnership with the café branch of the centre of influence. The district pastors (worship, kids/families, high school/young adults) will work with the launch team and campus pastor to get this site off the ground.

Laying the groundwork for PHASE 5

Early in 2025, a launch team will be elected for our Palm Beach campus. A launch pastor alongside a team of volunteers will begin the process of reaching into that community with a community service ministry and the development of life groups. During this time leaders will also be developed by our pastoral team to run this campus when it launches. Closer to the end of this phase a facility to launch from will be found and a launch date established.

PHASE 5 – PALM BEACH LAUNCH

ANTICIPATED TIME-FRAME: 2027 and beyond

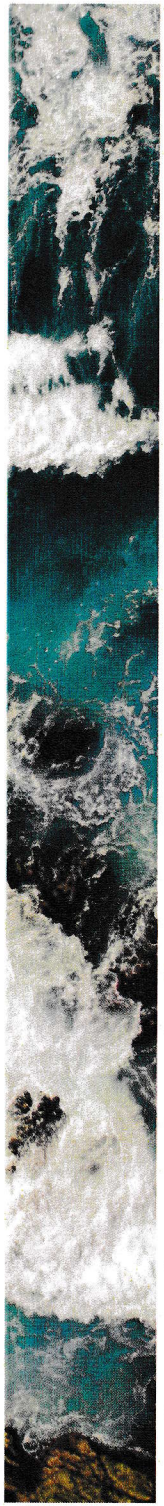
KEY FOCUS: The Palm Beach campus of our church will launch, and further vision thoughts and plans will commence.

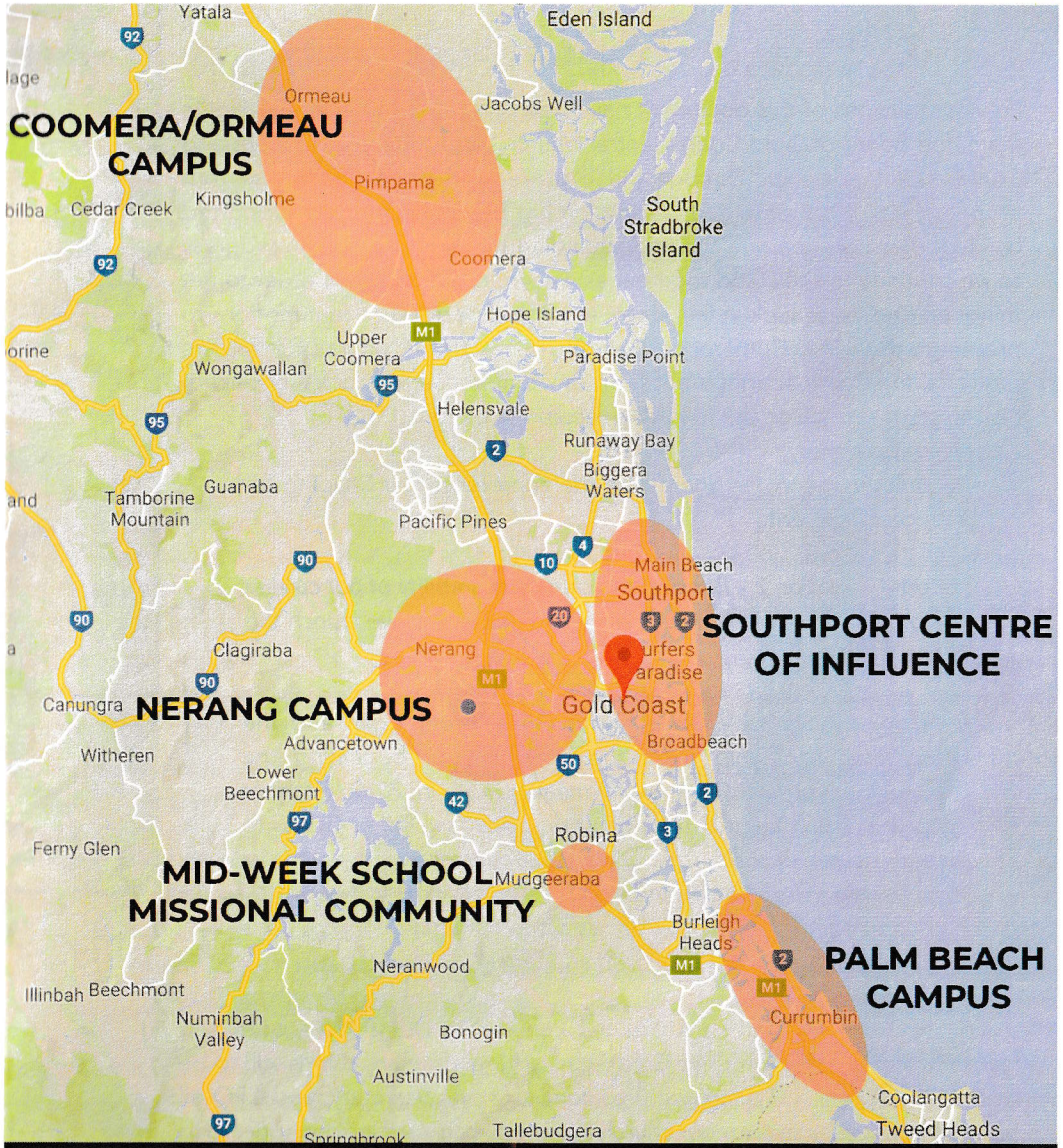
Launch of Palm Beach Campus

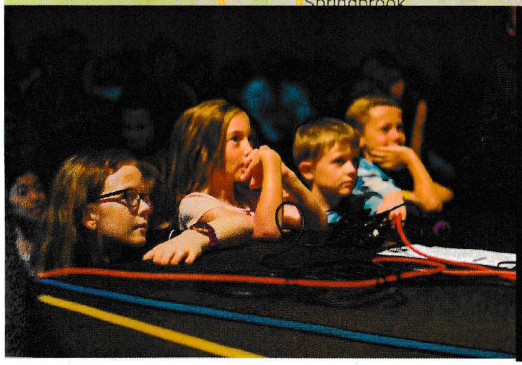
Early in this phase the Palm Beach campus launch will take place with the campus pastor, associated ministry leaders, and launch team for the campus. Within the first few months of launching these services we will have a harvest campaign with Dr. Kayle De Waal so that that new members and attenders can invite all of their friends to their new church. The district pastors (worship, kids/families, high school/young adults) will work with the launch team and campus pastor to get this site off the ground.

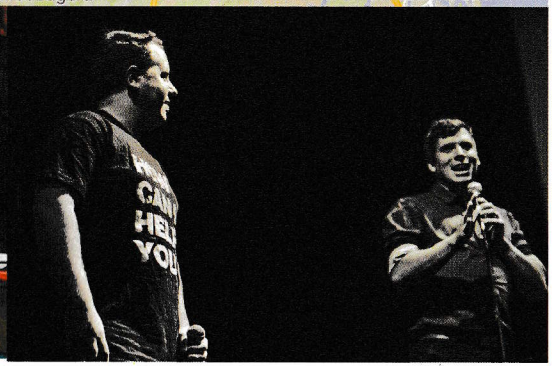
Looking Beyond

By this point in time we will have a good idea of what God has in store next for our community and will be laying the groundwork for that. We see our vision being one of continued multiplication of campuses here on the Gold Coast as this will be a part of our DNA by then. As well as this, we see potential for a vision that impacts beyond the Gold Coast in a network of Adventist churches desiring to follow a similar model in their ministry contexts.









CHURCH BOARD CONFERENCE REQUEST

Previous versions of this document have been presented to both the Elders team, the Board of Gold Coast Central Church, and the South Queensland Conference leadership. Through much prayer and discussion the current proposed vision has emerged. This vision has been unanimously supported by all of these groups with the understanding that this is a work in progress as we continue to seek God together as a church community. In order to get things started as we look at first steps, the Board decided on four motions to present to the SQLD Conference. It should be noted that although these are requests, the board sought input from the conference and looks forward to hearing its feedback on the following recommendations.

Recommendation 1 – Share with the conference our Shaping for Mission document.

Recommendation 2 – Request for long-term stability of our current pastoral leadership team of Pr Mike and Pr Dave as we launch this vision.

Recommendation 3 – Discuss with Greg, Brett, Colin and the conference leadership team the possibility of beginning the groundwork for the Coomera/Ormeau phase in 2019. Possible suggestion of Graeme May coming on board as staff at GCCC to lead this in conjunction with our church leadership.

Recommendation 4 – To pursue with the conference our options for prioritising ministry to children and families.

It was the hope of the board that the conference would be excited and supportive of our vision for the Gold Coast. There are many things still to be worked out, but the Conference President, General Secretary, and CFO all supported this direction for our church in principle and are looking forward to working in partnership with us as we look to the future.

After feedback and discussion with the conference it is anticipated that this document will now under-go further review as it is distributed to the wider body of the church for their comments and suggestions. Alongside a vote from the church, it will be then that this becomes the official working document for Gold Coast Central Church.

CONCLUSION

As previously stated, this document is conceptual in nature only. Our visions and plans are entirely subject to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Some things may happen far faster than we imagine them to happen, some may take a lot longer. Acts 16:6-10 talks about when Paul, Timothy and Silas were on a missionary journey. They had all their plans and best intentions laid out and organised, then the Spirit led them an entirely different direction to minister to the people of Macedonia. We want to leave our plans, visions and strategy open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. That being said, having plans and goals are important and we believe with all the faith we can muster, that God is a God with both the desire and the power to do far more for His name's sake than even we could even begin to dream or hope for.

Paul, when writing to the church in Ephesus 2000 years ago, gave them words of encouragement, strength and blessing as they looked forward to their vision of reaching an unchurched (gentile) community. We believe that these words and blessings are just as applicable to our church today as they were back then. This is the blessing and promise that we claim as a church as we look forward to our vision of reaching the unchurched and those far from God here on the Gold Coast.

> *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*
>
> *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*
>
> ***- Ephesians 3:14-21***

It is with humble prayer and immense honour that we undertake our God given vision to 'Reach 1 percent of the Gold Coast with the gospel of Jesus by 2030.'

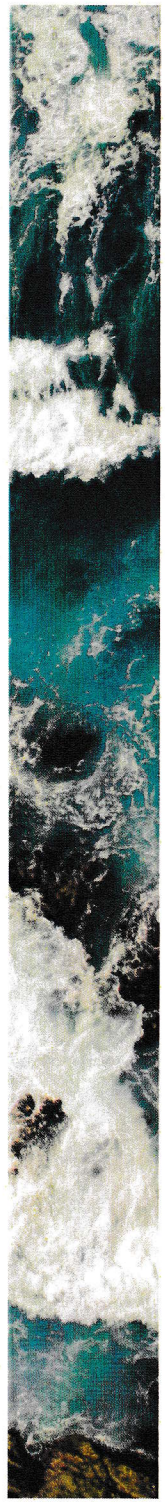
YOUR FEEDBACK

As stated this is a draft document, that means we want your feedback. We would like to encourage you to give us your thoughts and feedback as we seek God together for the future of our church. It would be great if you would e-mail mikecollum@adventist.org.au and davetoogood@adventist.org.au OR fill out the following form, tear it out of the book and give it to Pr Mike or Pr Dave (you can also place it in their folders) BY Saturday the 18th of August. There will be an open forum for all to attend where we will discuss the feedback and you can have your say at 7pm on Monday the 20th of August. Please note that feedback must be submitted in writing by the 18th of August in order to be included in the forum discussion.

PROS

CONS

There is space for more notes and suggestions on the back of this page...



GENERAL NOTES AND SUGGESTIONS

MY NAME:_____

I HAVE PRAYED ABOUT MY FEEDBACK: yes / no
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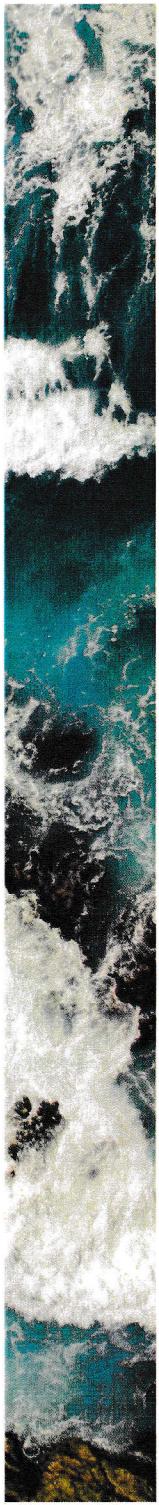
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